

WEST TISBURY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES July 12, 2021

PRESENT: Bea Phear, Leah Smith, Ginny Jones, Amy Upton

ABSENT: Henry Gellert, Matt Merry.

ALSO PRESENT: Jane Rossi

Leah opened the meeting at 5:32

DISCUSSION:

●Henry Geller resignation letter:

Ginny opened a discussion regarding a letter of resignation the board members had received from Henry Geller. She said she had spoken with Amy and asked her if she was interested in becoming a full board member. Amy said she would be happy to move into the position.

Bea made a motion to appoint Amy and Leah seconded the motion. Bea-yes, Leah-yes, Ginny-yes.

Jane was asked to draft a letter to the Select Board to request the appointment of Amy and to advertise for an associate member. The board discussed a couple of people who may want to join the board.

●Select Board Meeting:

Jane explained that she had attended the most recent Select Board meeting since the Complete Streets Committee was on the agenda. She explained that the CS Committee was there to discuss a letter they had drafted to Mass Department of Transportation with several requests regarding safety on the state highway such as crosswalks, speed reduction in certain areas and improvements to the North Tisbury bridge. Jen had suggested to her board that they not sign the letter due to her concerns that the state may design something that wouldn't be in keeping with the town's rural character.

She went on to explain that Jen Rand had provided the Board with a verbal plan describing implementing some safety measures in North Tisbury as had been recommended by the Northeastern University students pre-pandemic. She said she would have a presentation for the public in late August-early September. Berta mentioned the safety of the bridge and that she feels it needs attention. She said it should be widened to accommodate large trucks passing simultaneously. Skipper mentioned that they had discussed installing bridges on either side of the bridge for bikes and pedestrians. Jen explained that since the property on either side of the road is privately owned there may be a delay in gaining permission to get easements to do the work. Skipper said the surrounding area may fall within the state highway layout. He stated that is land may need to be taken so the area can become safer.

Jane also reported that the Preserve West Tisbury Committee (Samantha Look) gave an excellent presentation to the Select Board and pointed out that Skipper had provided the committee with some excellent points to address within the language of their proposed bylaw. She said that Laura Silber was in attendance to request that the Planning Board's letter of support for the Housing Coalition be read into the minutes. She asked Samantha if some of the affordable housing language could be merged into the PWTC

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proposed language. Bea suggested that not happen because they are two different bylaws and should remain separate. The board agreed.

●Letter of Support to the State Legislature and the newspapers.

Bea moved and Leah seconded the motion to send the letter to the papers. Bea-yes, Leah-yes, Ginny-yes, Amy-yes

●Bea reported that there is a bench and two plants blocking the second curb cut at the Cottrell property.

●Jane reported she is concerned about the speed limit in the Village District and feels it needs to be reduced, and crosswalks need to be added. Ginny pointed out that Mass DOT had reviewed the area in the past and made some safety suggestions. Jane said she would look up their findings.

●Amy reported that the unfinished curb cut at 688 Old County Road continues to be unfinished. She spoke with one of the owners who was told the property was pre-existing-non-conforming and was exempt from paving the apron. Jane was asked to draft a letter to all stating an apron is a town requirement on major roads.

MINUTES:

Leah moved and Bea seconded the motion to approve the June 28, 2021 minutes as amended. Bea-yes, Leah-yes, Ginny-yes.

Correspondence:

Letter from Alix Small RE: The letter addressed landscaping activity happen on an abutting lot.

The board determined this was an enforcement issue and not a Planning Board issue.

Adjourned at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Rossi, Administrator

Approved on July 26, 2021- Phear-yes, Jones-yes, Smith-yes, Merry-recused, Geller-recused.